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MULTIPLE USE
MANDATE for MANAGEMENT

FOREST SERVICE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ROCKY MT. FOREST & RANGE
EXPERIMENT STATION

MULTIPLE USE

LAND MANAGEMENT

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ROCKY MT. FOREST & RANGE
EXPERIMENT STATION

Public Law 86-517
86th Congress, H.R. 10572
June 12, 1960

AN ACT

To authorize and direct that the national forests be managed under principles of multiple use and to produce a sustained yield of products and services, and for other purposes.

National forests, management.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is the policy of the Congress that the national forests are established and shall be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes. The purposes of this Act are declared to be supplemental to, but not in derogation of, the purposes for which the national forests were established as set forth in the Act of June 4, 1897 (16 U.S.C. 475). Nothing herein shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the several States with respect to wildlife and fish on the national forests. Nothing herein shall be construed so as to affect the use or administration of the mineral resources of national forest lands or to affect the use or administration of Federal lands not within national forests.

30 Stat. 34.

Multiple use; sustained yield.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized and directed to develop and administer the renewable surface resources of the national forests for multiple use and sustained yield of the several products and services obtained therefrom. In the administration of the national forests due consideration shall be given to the relative values of the various resources in particular areas. The establishment and maintenance of areas of wilderness are consistent with the purposes and provisions of this Act.

Sec. 3. In the effectuation of this Act the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to cooperate with interested State and local governmental agencies and others in the development and management of the national forests.

Definitions.

Sec. 4. As used in this Act, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Multiple use" means: The management of all the various renewable surface resources of the national forests so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; that some land will be used for less than all of the resources; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output.

(b) "Sustained yield of the several products and services" means the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the national forests without impairment of the productivity of the land.

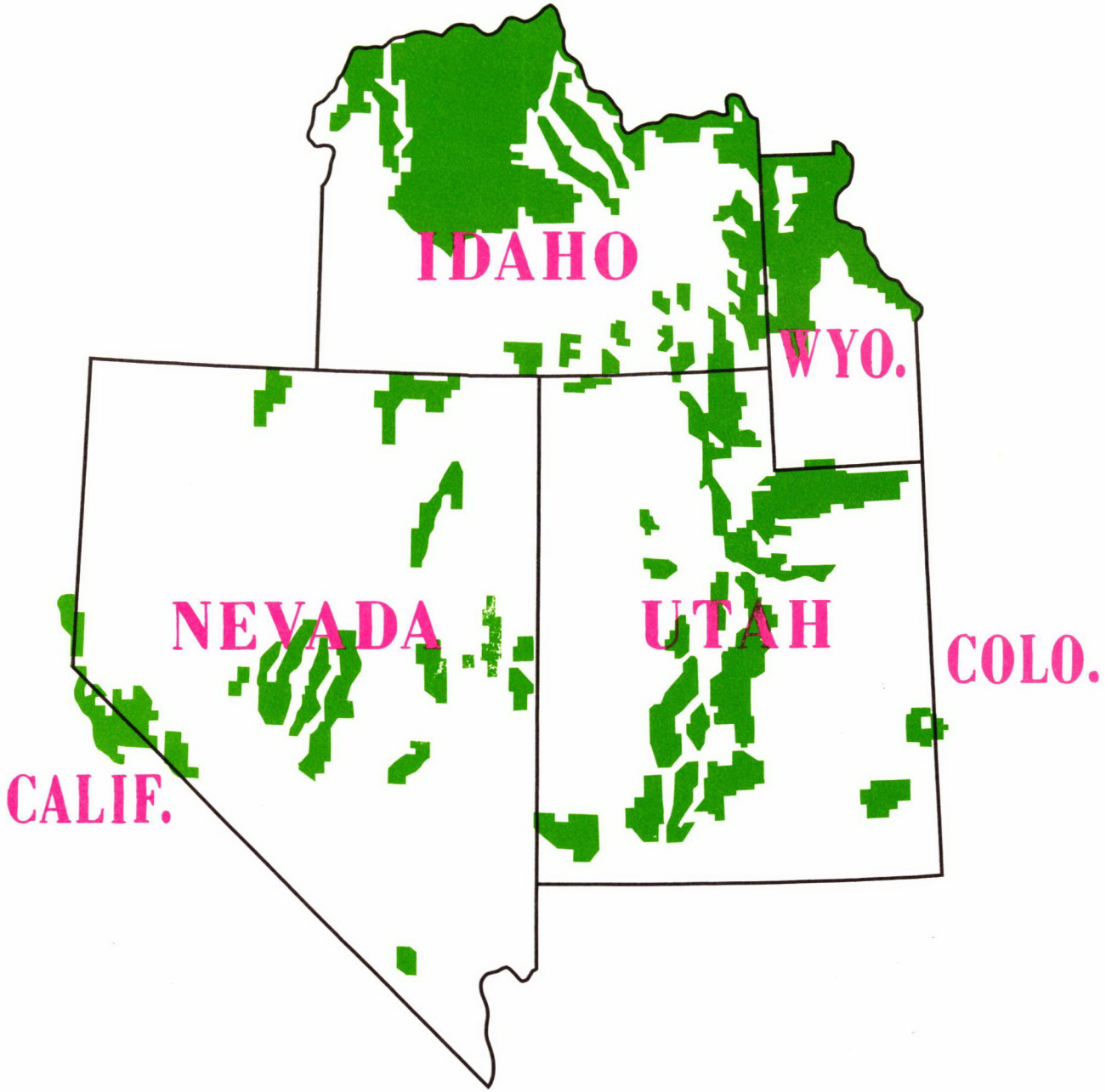
Approved June 12, 1960.

MANDATE FOR MANAGEMENT

On June 12, 1960, Congress passed the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act – a mandate for management of the National Forests. This one-page Act, shown on the opposite page, gives direction under which the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture manages the National Forests for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes.

When the Forest Service was organized at the turn of the century, a Forest Ranger had little to guide him in the vital job of managing the National Forests. The early-day Forest Ranger rode and hiked long distances to fight forest fires singlehanded, kept a weather-eye out for poachers, and struggled unceasingly to protect the vital watersheds from overgrazing and from irresponsible or illegal timber cutting. There were few precedents to follow and, like any other pioneering operation, progress was largely a matter of trial and error.

Today the Rangers of the Forest Service continue the tradition of dedicated service set forth by their early-day counterparts. Behind them, however, is the benefit of more than half a century of research and experience. Public demands on the National Forests and National Grasslands are many times greater and much more diverse than they were sixty years ago. The methods for meeting these demands have changed and improved considerably. Management of the National Forests today is known as "multiple use management." This management, adopted as the policy of Congress in the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act, is based upon experience and research.


IDAHO
WYO.
NEVADA
UTAH
COLO.
CALIF.

THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

The Intermountain Region of the Forest Service is one of nine such Regions in the United States, and contains 18 of the Nation's 154 National Forests. It also includes a National Grassland. The 32 million acres of National Forest System lands in this Region include a wide variety of climatic conditions, topography, and soil types. There are broad semidesert valleys, amply watered uplands, rugged alpine mountains, dense forests, and productive ranges.

Each National Forest System area produces its own unique combination of renewable natural resources. Uses of these resources are dependent on effective management of the land's capability to produce a sustained yield of various products and services to meet public needs without impairing land productivity. The objective of multiple use management is the harmonious and coordinated use of the several resources of a land area on a sustained yield basis.

The map on the adjoining page shows the Intermountain Region.

A written Multiple Use Management Guide has been prepared by the Forest Supervisors and the Regional Forester, covering all National Forest System lands in the Intermountain Region. This Regional Guide describes the management situations for the various resources and activities, and sets forth the basic assumptions. The Region is divided into a number of multiple use management zones for which the Regional Guide states the management direction and establishes coordinating requirements.

MULTIPLE USE ZONES

Zoning for Multiple Use Management

The use of zones for managing land areas is not a new concept. Cities have long employed this tool for controlling use in urban areas. City zones and Forest Service multiple use management zones are similar in that both have as their objective the coordinated use of land areas. Forest Service multiple use management zones, however, are concerned with and based upon the inherent characteristics, sustained capabilities, and existing and potential resource uses and activities involving National Forest System lands.

Land Characteristics and Capabilities

National Forest System lands vary greatly in their characteristics and capabilities. Elevation, slope, aspect, soil type and depth, temperature, precipitation, plant cover, accessibility, and use are a few of the important factors that determine the land's ability to produce renewable resources. These physical and ecological characteristics must be known and taken into consideration in Forest Service multiple use management zoning.

Establishing Multiple Use Management Zones

A basic step in Forest Service multiple use management is the precise identification of multiple use management zones. Guided by the zone characteristics defined in the Regional Multiple Use Management Guide, the local Forest Ranger, with approval of the Forest Supervisor, carefully maps the management zones encompassing all of the National Forest System lands on his District. This requires his intimate knowledge and careful study of the lands and their existing and potential resource uses and activities. Carefully delineated multiple use management zones properly reflect present and future ecological limitations and public needs.

Types of Multiple Use Management Zones

Six major multiple use management zones are widely used in the multiple use zoning process in the Intermountain Region. These zones are: Crest, Intermediate, Lower, Travel Influence, Water Influence, and Special. Additional zones are established to cover unique situations in particular areas.

Special zones include formally designated areas, covered by special legislation or executive action, in which special management procedures are established as required. Included in this zone would be wilderness, scenic, geological, historical and other formally designated areas.

The following pages deal with five of these zones individually. Reference to the fold-out map on the back cover will show how these zones fit together in a "pattern for management."

FOLD OUT THE MAP ON THE INSIDE BACK COVER . . . IT WILL HELP YOU WHILE READING THE REMAINING PAGES.

CREST ZONE

This zone includes high often remote, scenic country characterized by many rugged peaks, small lakes, and subalpine and alpine vegetation. This is the "high country" of the National Forests.

Resource Uses and Activities

The Crest Zone is a major water-producing area. Heavy precipitation and lingering snowfields provide large quantities of water to support spectacular alpine and subalpine plants and for many off-site water uses on lower areas. This zone is especially popular for many types of dispersed recreation such as hiking, riding, climbing, fishing, photography, and hunting. Access is often only by trail.

Management Direction

Protection of watersheds, and the maintenance or improvement of the yield of usable water, are especially important in the Crest Zone, and receive great emphasis. Safeguarding or enhancing natural beauty and opportunities for dispersed recreation, along with the maintenance or development of fish and wildlife habitat, are also stressed. Other compatible and desirable resource uses and activities are permitted.

INTERMEDIATE ZONE

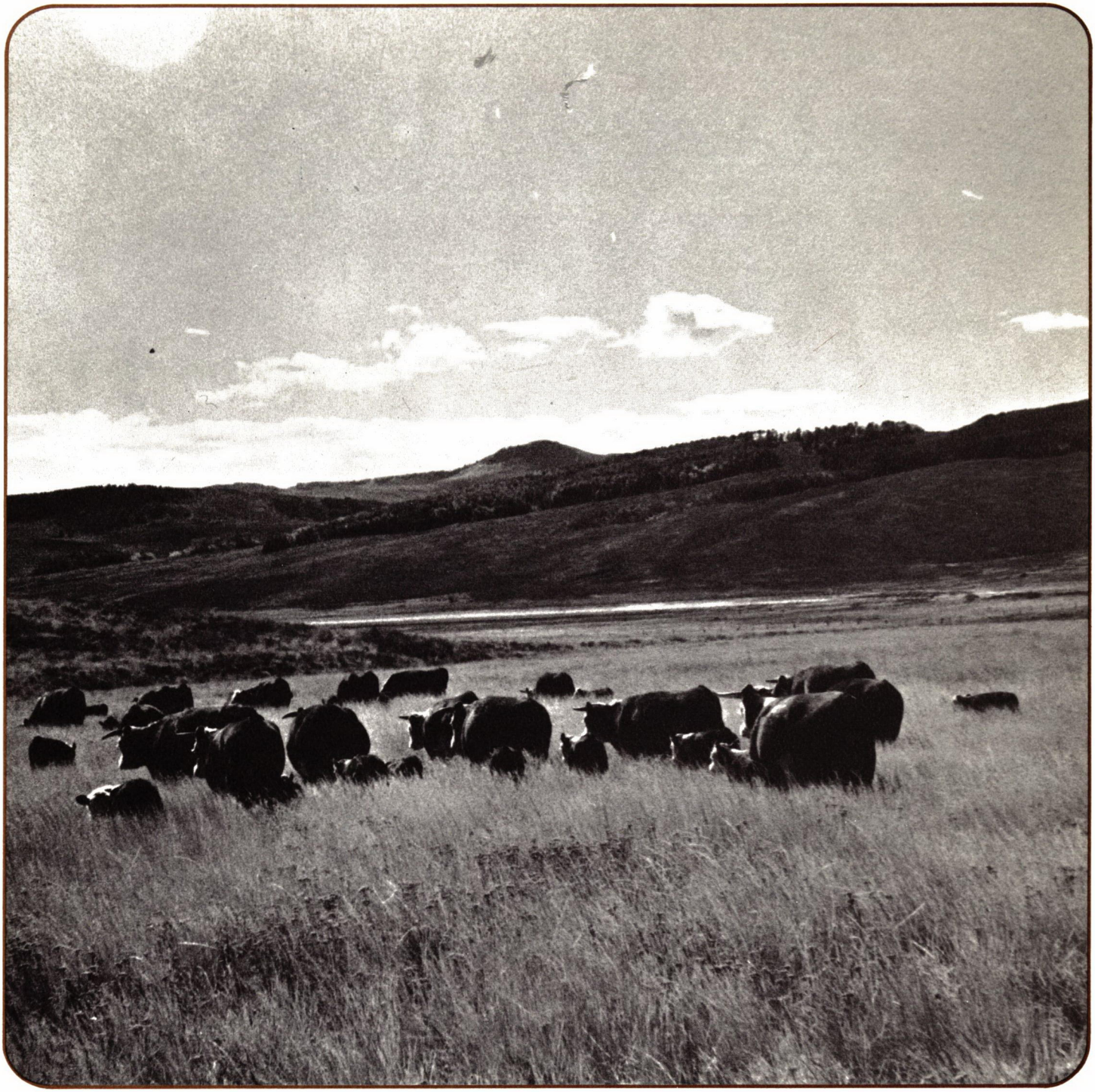
This zone consists of vast expanses of forests and rangelands, including numerous related streams, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. The bulk of National Forest timber, wildlife habitat, and livestock range is found here, between the adjoining and often more spectacular Crest Zone and the more arid Lower Zone.

Resource Uses and Activities

Containing a rich combination of habitat for livestock and big game, commercial timber stands, and scenic beauty, the Intermediate Zone is highly productive. This zone also produces important quantities of water for streamflow and underground storage. Recreation uses of the zone are predominantly "extensive," including fishing, hunting, hiking, riding, and back-country camping.

Management Direction

Management in the Intermediate Zone emphasizes sustained production and use of quality timber, forage, and wildlife habitat, consistent with the maintenance of satisfactory water yield and watershed conditions. Opportunities for extensive public recreation use and scenic enjoyment are protected and enhanced.



LOWER ZONE

Low, rolling country, with usually scant precipitation and often erosive soil, characterizes this zone. Pinyon pine and juniper timber stands, broad expanses of sagebrush and grass, some aspen, and mountain brush generally make up the plant cover.

Resource Uses and Activities

The Lower Zone includes major areas of key big-game winter habitat and spring-fall livestock range. Much of this zone is well suited for various range-wildlife developments, such as revegetation and other improvements. Storage reservoirs and water transmission lines for handling water produced in other zones are found here.

Management Direction

Maintenance or development of ground cover adequate to assure soil stability is a key management consideration in the Lower Zone. Management emphasizes coordinated livestock and big-game range uses. Natural beauty and the limited opportunities for dispersed recreation use are safeguarded and fostered.

CACHE
National Forest
CAMPGROUND
Sunrise

TRAVEL INFLUENCE ZONE

This zone includes areas of varying widths on each side of major existing and potential travel routes through the Lower, Intermediate, Crest, and other zones. It's width depends upon the amount of existing or potential occupancy, use, and enjoyment by the traveling public.

Resource Uses and Activities

Transecting the other zones, the Travel Influence Zone contains a variety of scenic and other recreation attractions used and enjoyed for a diversity of intensive recreation uses and activities. Campgrounds, picnic areas, organization sites, resorts, and winter sports areas are commonly located in the Travel Influence Zone. Timber harvesting, grazing, and other resource uses and activities, where compatible with recreation, are carried on.

Management Direction

Protection or enhancement of scenic, recreation, wildlife, and other values for intensive use and enjoyment by the traveling public are emphasized in the Travel Influence Zone. Other resource uses and activities which are compatible with recreation use and enjoyment are permitted.

WATER INFLUENCE ZONE

This zone includes areas of varying widths bordering major rivers, streams, lakes, and reservoirs where water is the chief attraction for present and potential recreation use. The zone often encompasses travel routes adjacent to scenic bodies of water, but ordinarily does not include minor small lakes and streams.

Resource Uses and Activities

Intensive water-oriented recreation such as boating, water skiing, swimming, fishing, camping, and picnicking are common in the Water Influence Zone. Water is a key resource for on-site as well as downstream uses. Timber harvesting, grazing, and other resource uses and activities often occur, where compatible with water and recreation uses.

Management Direction

Protection or improvement of water and related environment for appropriate uses and activities are emphasized in the Water Influence Zone. Maintenance or enhancement of esthetic and recreation values, with appropriate intensive recreation development, also receive emphasis. Other compatible resource uses and activities are permitted.

A CONCEPT IN ACTION

The modern Forest Ranger comes to his job well trained academically and practically. While he has countless decisions to make and is continually confronted with new opportunities and problems concerning coordination of various uses and activities, he doesn't have to grope for answers as did his forerunners years ago. Through his knowledge and application of the coordinating requirements for multiple use management within the carefully devised system of multiple use management zones—all well mapped and identified—the Forest Ranger can handle the District's administrative reins with confidence.

Every Forest Ranger in the Intermountain Region has prepared a detailed Multiple Use Plan for his Ranger District. This plan includes a map which shows the various multiple use management zones. It also delineates and describes management units, within the zones, that require special additional management considerations. The approved Ranger District Multiple Use Plan spells out the key coordination considerations in each management zone and management unit. It specifies management decisions for obtaining a balanced, coordinated, management program for various land areas throughout the District.

This Ranger District Multiple Use Plan is the Ranger's tool for applying the broad management mandate of Congress to specific land areas on his District. All management programs involving the various resource uses and activities are carefully analyzed and adjusted in the light of the Ranger District Multiple Use Plan to assure that the desired balance is maintained.

For any proposed use or activity a multiple use survey is made, using the Multiple Use Plan as the basis for identifying coordination needs. Multiple use survey reports spell out the recommendations for securing needed coordination with other uses and activities. Approved recommendations are carried forward in action programs. On-the-ground coordination is assured through supervision and inspection.

This system of multiple use management assures the American people that their National Forests are properly administered to serve "the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run."

NATIONAL FOREST HALLMARK

The National Forest symbol, based on a medieval symbol for wood, was created in December 1960.

Six elements make up the symbolic multiple use tree, the central design within the ring. The five ovals stand for the five major resources of the National Forests—wood, water, forage, wildlife, and recreation—and represent as well the products and services flowing from these resources. The trunk of the tree is symbolic of the Nation and its people who receive the benefit from these products and services.

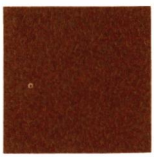
Further symbolism in the tree's design is obtained by using an unbroken line to link each resource with the other and all five with the using public. The line establishes the interrelationships and interdependence of the six elements. Its continuity further symbolizes multiple use management by indicating that each resource is developed and managed in coordination with each of the other resources and that all are developed and managed to provide high-level benefits to the American people.

MAP LEGEND

CREST ZONE

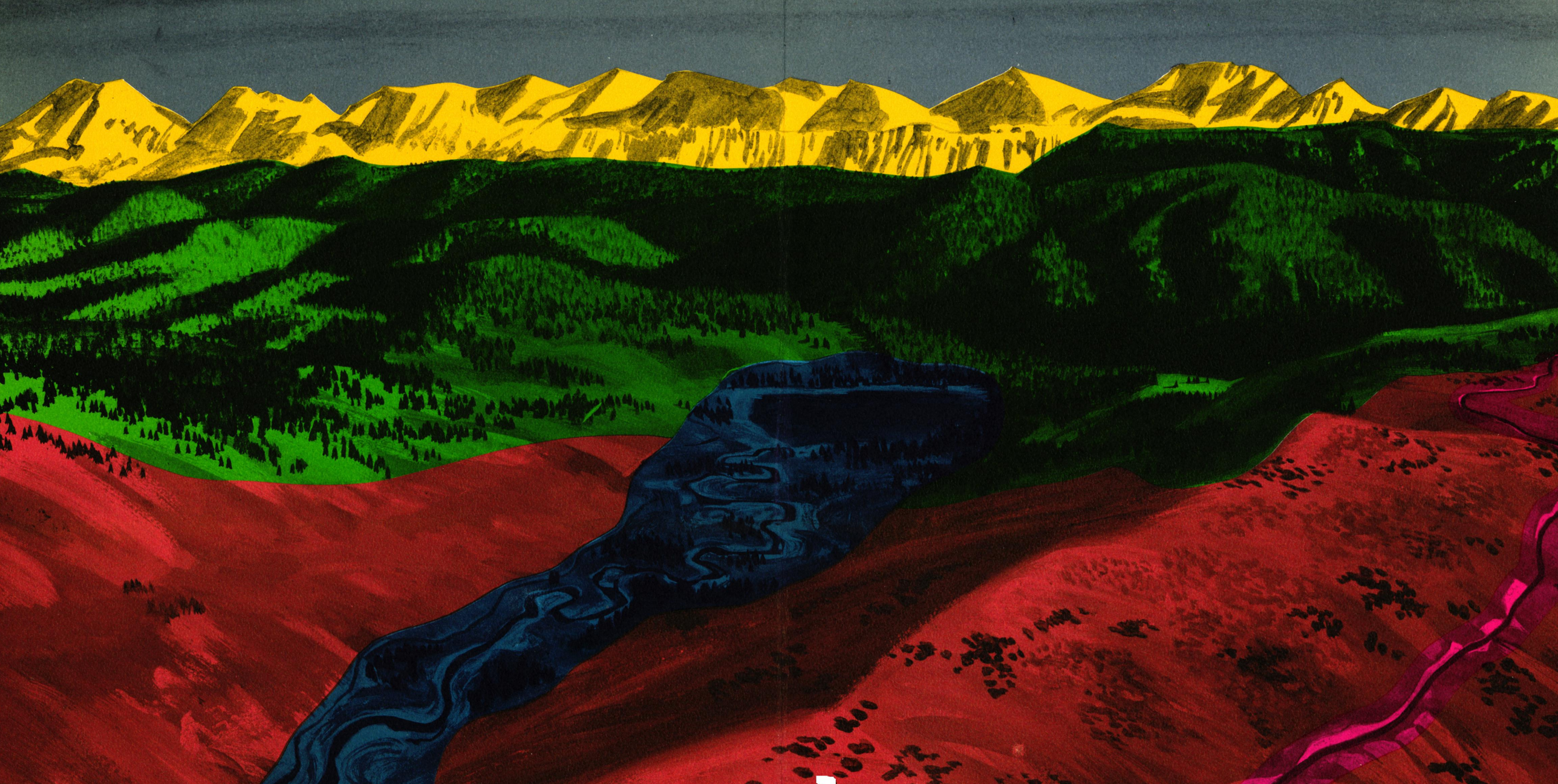
INTERMEDIATE ZONE

LOWER ZONE



TRAVEL INFLUENCE ZONE

WATER INFLUENCE ZONE



"The Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the principle of multiple use management of the Nation's forest resources for sustained yields of wood, water, forage, wildlife, and recreation. Through forestry research, cooperation with the States and private forest owners, and management of the National Forests and National Grasslands, it strives—as directed by Congress—to provide increasingly greater service to a growing Nation."